

POINT

THE TOC H MAGAZINE

AUGUST 1999



TOC H

Bringing people together

AN ISLAND OF PEACE

In April a project took place on Ynys Enlli (Bardsey Island), off the Llyn Peninsular in N.Wales. Bardsey Island is traditionally a place of retreat and pilgrimage, and it is said 20,000 saints are buried there. One volunteer, Delyth Liddell, kept a diary and we are grateful to her for permission to print some extracts.

I am sitting among the flowering gorse bushes on a mountainside overlooking the whole island. The sweet smell of gorse is all around me - a wonderful smell, not unlike coconut, and I've been finding it hard not to push my nose into the yellow flowers to smell it! The sun is hot on my face, the sea breeze reminds me that it is still April and therefore too cold to sunbathe.

Just five small fields from the foot of this mountain, is the sea. And above me, a sky of blue, not a cloud in sight. I have walked along the coast, following the shape of the island, in and out of the bays. I have sat on the rocks debating the meaning of

life and discovering an important principle - forget what is behind and strive for what is ahead. Move on. Into the future, into healing. Who knows what the future may hold?

The cottage we stayed in was next to the chapel. I played the organ, that you had to pump with your feet to get air into. I read Psalm 18 to myself from the huge, ornate pulpit and imagined myself preaching to the six empty pews.

Evenings were spent watching fantastic sunsets as the sun slipped into the sea. Beautiful colours painted across the sky, red skies predicting that tomorrow would be another wonderful day. Later in the evening we would sit by candlelight, talking, sipping whiskey or Southern Comfort and playing scrabble until bedtime.

...The project. Oh Yes! The project - the reason for us being here - was to paint doors in the old lighthouse keeper's cottage. We set to with great energy - determined to have primed/undercoated/glossed the whole thing quickly so that we could get out into the sun. Well, there's no point watching paint dry, is there?

So what can I say about my first Toc H project? I knew nothing of Toc H before I came. I came because I had heard Bardsey Island was a wonderful place. It is. The project gave me an excellent way of getting away from it all. Meeting new people, doing something worthwhile, and having time to reflect on life. If this is what Toc H can offer it can't be going far wrong. Keep it up, Toc H.



Delyth with a new friend!

Toc H

Toc H is about people. Founded in 1915, Toc H works to break down barriers between people by challenging their prejudices about others and the divisions which exist in society. Its work is based on Christian principles, and people of all faiths, and of none, are welcomed.

Toc H works with people from all walks of life, tackling social problems, such as loneliness and deprivation, through an approach which emphasises self-help, and encourages people to accept responsibility for themselves and their local community.

Toc H uses the model of the compass to offer four personal challenges which are the inspiration for its members.

These 'Four Points of the Compass' are set out on page 2.

Our Vision is of a Movement
'Building better communities by reaching out to all in friendship and service, confronting prejudice, and practising Christian values'.

Toc H is a registered charity No 211042.



The group at the lighthouse. Delyth is seated centre.

IN THIS ISSUE:

No ordinary friendship.....

Thanks - from the CEC.

A Bank Holiday in prison.

A proud record.

STAFF NEWS:

Welcome to two new members of staff on the East London 'Family Project', (featured in our last issue). They are Nurun Nehar and Ferdous Ahmed.

Congratulations and good wishes to Julian and Jenny Banks. Jenny (who was Jenny Carlon until their marriage in June) works with the Families Under Pressure Scheme in Winsford, Cheshire.

John Burgess is convalescing well and we hear he can now sleep in his own bed. Where HAS he been sleeping? Answers on a post-card, please...!

Please note that Terry Brown has a new telephone number. He is now on 01202 487233

CONGRATULATIONS

To *Helen and John James* on the birth of a daughter, *Georgia Frances*, on 25th June. Helen chaired the Central Executive Committee for a year from Central Council 1996...

...and to *Harry Graham*, Mid-East Regional Chairman, who has been elected Vice-Chairman of Northamptonshire County Council. Harry looks forward to becoming Chairman for the year May 2000 - 2001.

The Four Points of the Compass are:

1. **Friendship** - 'To Love Widely' - to welcome all in friendship,
2. **Service** - 'To Build Bravely' - to give personal service.
3. **Fairmindedness** - 'To Think Fairly' - to listen always to the views of others and to find one's own convictions.
4. **The Kingdom of God** - 'To Witness Humbly' - to acknowledge the spiritual nature of man, to practise the Christian way of life, and to help the truth to prevail.

Point 3 is the magazine of Toc H. It takes its name from the 3rd Point of the Toc H Compass, 'Fairmindedness'. It seeks to inform, to encourage and to stimulate.

Editor: John Mitchell c/o Toc H Central Services, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT
Tel: 01296 623911. Fax: 01296 696137
E-mail: info@toch.org.uk

Letters Editor: Ken Prideaux-Brune.

Next copy deadline: 10th September 1999.

A full copy of the current editorial policy is available on request from the Editor.

The opinions expressed are those of the individual concerned and not necessarily the views of the Editor or of Toc H.

While Point 3 is made available to all members free of charge, voluntary contributions are welcome.

The Editors reserve the right to cut or précis articles and letters submitted unless the writer specifically stipulates otherwise.

Printed on chlorine-free, environmentally friendly paper.

FROM THE CEC - THANK YOU

The CEC would like to thank all those members who responded to the paper entitled 'A Proposal for the Future', either as individuals or through their branches, districts or regions. There was an overwhelming feeling that members really cared and wanted to share their views, and the CEC really appreciated this as it helped considerably with deliberations.

As expected, there was a wide range of opinion but there was broad agreement with the policy paper. As a result, the CEC has decided to move towards a long-term future, and is in the process of confirming this with the Trustees of

the Movement so that we can all move forward in a positive way towards a future together.

Assuming the Trustees agree to this, we must recognise that this will mean reduced staffing levels, and the CEC is working on the policy towards this end.

There are lots of suggestions we will want to follow up, and the support you offer us in decision-making is invaluable.

Once again, a huge thank-you to all those who responded. It bodes well for the future in which we so strongly believe.

Tubby's Harmonium

The original harmonium used by Tubby during the First World War has been restored with proceeds of an appeal made by Bert Hill and Noreen Douglas.



The harmonium features in a well-known cartoon painted by Joe Michie and presented to Jacques Ryckebosch, for Talbot House, in March this year.

Welcome to our New Members

Roger Cattermoul - SE Region
George Pearce - Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Alice Turner - Broughton Astley
David Manning - Graeme
Paulette Denton, Ronald Gilbert,
Gladys Ilett, Albert Loosley,
Margaret Loosley, Ruth Poole -
Kempston

Linda Heaney, Patricia Heaney -
Kings Norton & Northfield
George Rippin, Vivian Rippin -
Long Eaton
John Enever - Looe
Olive Williamson - Penn
Phyllis Parkes, Margaret Pickersgill,
Elisabeth Wilson - Ripon

Guest Members

Barbara Hall, Lorraine Howell -
ME Region
Munir Ahmed, Tariq Ali,
Javaid Ashraf, Margaret Bailey,
Tracy Davy, Adalat Hussain,
Asif Hussain, Abdul Razaq,
Abid Sadia, Bill Salter - NE Region

Gordon Eaton - NW/NW Region
Ann Davidson, Jennifer Jones,
Michael Treacy, Matthew Usher,
Kevin Vigars - SE Region
Claire Calder, Laura Hodgson,
Delyth Liddell, Kerry McGovern -
WM/SW Region

Welcome to 41 New Members

NO ORDINARY FRIENDSHIP

(A précis of an address given to his colleagues, at the recent Staff Gathering, by Terry Brown, Chaplain/Development Officer - Div 3)

There have been dozens of books and booklets and thousands of articles written about Toc H. Some have mapped the history, or parts of it. Others have attempted to explain what Toc H is and what it does. In recent years attempts have been made to try to give Toc H a focus for it to work on to ensure survival.

Recently, visiting a Christian bookshop, I realised just how many books have been written about the Bible, many produced with the sole aim of trying to explain more fully what one book is about. I'm certain that there are many people who spend far more time reading about the Book than they do actually reading the Book itself.

Could it be, I began to think, that Toc H has a similar problem? Are many people spending a great deal of time reading, and writing, and adding to this plethora of words about Toc H while missing the very basic facts; facts which can be lost amid the sheer number of words?

At some risk, I am adding to the pile. I do so to try to strip away the masses of explanations of Toc H and go back to basics. I believe we should look again at the origins of the movement, and try to see them through the eyes of the Founder Padre and the earliest members.

The offer of friendship

The 'Old House' in Poperinge offered many things to the soldiers who visited during the 1914-18 War. Among these, the most important was friendship, but it was no ordinary friendship. It was a unique friendship in that it asked people to make sure they allowed no barriers - of class, rank or social standing - to come between them. Our literature over the years has emphasised this. Unfortunately, this fact is often missed, perhaps because of its very simplicity.

The first administrator of Toc H, Peter Monie, writing in 1927, said: "Toc H exists, first and foremost, not for any advantage to its members, not to do particular things or jobs, but to pass on a spirit - the spirit of Christian fellowship and service shown by all ranks during the Great War." It was this which brought the men back together after the war - to try to re-create the fellowship that they had found and enjoyed.

I now offer a Christian perspective on the reason for this. It may point to where our current problems really lie.

If we look at the 12th chapter of the Gospel of Mark, we will read the response of Jesus to the question, "Which of

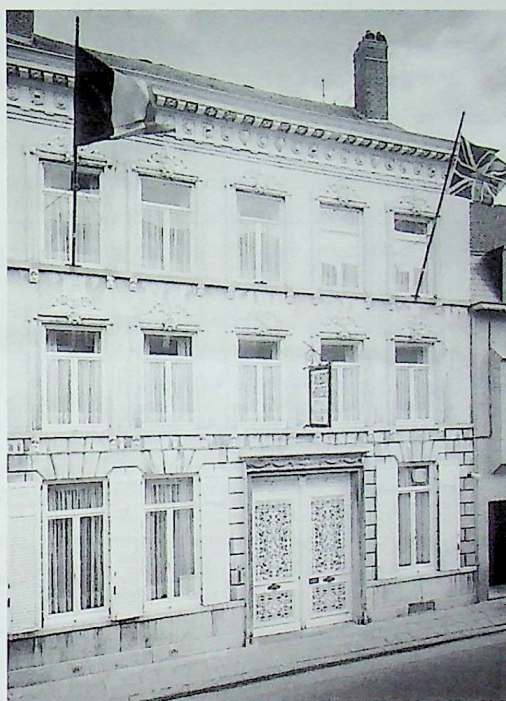
the commands is the most important?". His reply was, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength" and "Love your neighbour as you love yourself. There are no commands greater than these."

Those commands are far easier said than done, especially as He explained who our neighbour is - whoever needs our love and help. It does, however, give a standard to aim at. That, I would suggest, is the WHAT of Toc H: To create and promote a friendship which, like that of Jesus, accepts no barriers or boundaries. Everything else the Movement has achieved is a result of that simple aim.

"The Why"

And what is the WHY of Toc H? The first command Jesus gave was to love God, and if we are to do that then we must, first and foremost, obey Him and honour Him. That means we must, among other things, love everyone, even if we don't like them or the things they do. God doesn't like all that we do but He still loves us.

If we are to be true to Toc H, and if we are looking for the foundation on which to build our future, that is it. We must first accept all for who they are and encourage others to do the same. That is what will break down the barriers. That is what will lead to all the other benefits associated with Toc H.



Talbot House, Poperinge

Some may raise objections to this argument. First, I talk about 'loving God' even though there is no credal test for Toc H membership. No problem. If people can accept others in friendship, and as of equal value, regardless of their own motives, then they have taken the first step. They have accepted the 'Open Door' principle of Toc H. No-one, in the Old House, was forced to go to the 'Upper Room'. However, once through the open door, the challenge was there - to 'come and see'. It should still be there to-day.

Secondly, I may be accused of being simplistic. That doesn't worry me because I firmly believe it is a simple message. It was the message our founder and the early members preached and it is how they tried to live. It was the message Jesus preached and how He did live. If it was good enough for Him, it is good enough for me.

So, with an understanding of the WHAT and the WHY we must now look at the HOW. How do we do it? How do we promote it? How do we sell it?

HOW TO SPEND YOUR MAY BANK HOLIDAY; GO TO PRISON.

Susannah Reide was a volunteer on a project which took place inside HM Prison Grendon, in Buckinghamshire, to work alongside inmates to paint murals on the prison walls. Susannah shares some of her impressions.

We approached Grendon through Springhill Open prison. In contrast to Springhill's long, single-storey barrack blocks, Grendon was surrounded by high walls topped with razor wire. We were let into a little courtyard (like going into a castle, the area just behind the portcullis) where we showed proofs of identity. Then we passed through another gate, into an open area planted with many roses - for me, one of Grendon's surprises.

We passed through two more locked doors and came to a corridor where four men were beginning painting. Two were working with an overhead projector. They had photocopied

some designs from a book of London Underground posters, and were projecting them onto a plain wall so that they could 'paint by numbers'. Mike, one of them, welcomed us in a friendly way and made introductions - and we started the day by having tea together.

Our time in Grendon was a very powerful experience. Beforehand I had been afraid I might be attacked, but in fact I felt very secure throughout. We even discussed this fear at the end of our time together, and the prisoners reassured me that they would have protected us if anyone had tried to attack us - but that it would have been very unusual if anyone had. People in Grendon are there because they choose to be; it is an unusual therapeutic prison to which prisoners can be referred from other prisons if it is thought they will benefit from the group therapy and constructive approach available there.

It was wonderful to be somewhere where prisoners had an opportunity to do something constructive about their lives. The men we met were generally enthusiastic about the therapy groups and the fact that prisoners have more responsibility than in other prisons. For example, violence is forbidden, and if any of them do behave violently, they have to explain themselves to their peers. They also risk being sent back to a more traditional prison.

The weekend helped me to understand that going to prison is not the end of the story, as newspapers often suggest. It is the start of a new stage in someone's life. I am glad there are places like Grendon which help this new stage to be constructive, and potentially a time to learn about better ways to live. I do not know what the four men we met will do when they leave, but some really did seem to be re-evaluating their lives and choices.

A PROUD RECORD

Shavington Branch, in Cheshire, closed recently. Cyril Carrier reflects on over 50 years of fellowship and service... in a branch that clearly saw itself as part of a worldwide family rather than purely a local unit.

The closure of any branch is a sad occasion, with the break-up of fellowship and the end of whatever 'good works' members have been doing. After the Movement's great rush forward in the '20s, there has always been a steady decline of membership, though this has been to some extent overshadowed by the increasingly effective work the Movement as a whole has performed.

Shavington Branch has been a most active unit for over 50 years, with involvement throughout Toc H. Members were involved at District and Area level from the earliest days and did much fundraising for holidays for children from the slums of Manchester, an involvement which led to the opening of the Toc H centre at Rhyl. They supported

hospital broadcasts and, for some 30 years, Festival of Music Concerts.

The branch set up a Senior Citizens Club which now, 46 years later, is still very popular, and the branch also hosted a Boys Club twice a week.

From its earliest days, the branch never accepted the widely held view that 'finance' was taboo or that money was a dirty word. Rather more logical was the thinking that no worthwhile service can be provided without money allied to the necessary physical effort. As a result, on the closure of the branch, £60,000 has been shared between central Toc H and the North Wales and North West Region. More than this had previously been raised and spent for Toc H purposes worldwide - for Friendship Circles, Dor Knap, Port Penrhyn, Talbot House, and Toc H Zimbabwe.

Most members will continue their membership by transferring to another local branch or joining the regional list.

CANNOCK CHASE NEWS

The Cannock Chase project needs no introduction for most readers, but - for newer members - we should explain that in 1992 members in South Staffs and Wolverhampton District embarked on a 'countryside access' project in Brindley Valley, part of Cannock Chase. They had little money but much faith and enthusiasm. Since then they have organised the construction of five interlocking trails complete with tapping rails for people with impaired sight, built a viewing platform which looks out over the beautiful valley, and created a wildlife pond. Virtually all the work has been done by volunteers. It has been paid for in a variety of ways ranging from individual donations to large-company sponsorship in cash or in kind, and by grants from trust funds. Chris Williams reports on progress...

By the end of the year we hope to see the project's completion. Currently we are icing the cake, so to speak. Thanks to sponsorship from the TGWU Goodyear Branch, an audio tape has now been made; this is primarily for visitors with impaired sight but is available to anyone else who wishes. The Branch has also bought the necessary cassette players, tapes and batteries. The car park by the trails and the trails

themselves will be named after Toc H. There will also be a prominent Toc H Sensory Corner in the Visitors Centre nearby, which will also house stuffed animals.

The wildlife pond is now well established. Mother Nature has furnished it with a variety of water plants, grass snakes, tadpoles, frogs, newts, dragonflies, water birds - and this year we have seen roach for the first time.

Many tributes have been paid to the project. One lady in a wheelchair, together with a friend, said that the trails had given her a big improvement in her quality of life - as she could now visit parts of Cannock Chase she could not otherwise have got to. She thought the trails were wonderful, and had gone round them 'under her own steam'. Many other users with disabilities have been very positive about the experience.

Thanks to the many volunteers and sponsors, we have provided a facility which can be enjoyed by all, free. For Toc H it has generated publicity, allowed us to put our ethos into practice, and given members a common cause to work for and a sense of achievement. As we close the door on this project we look ahead to the next challenge. I will report on that at a later date!

COINCIDENCES?



Carolyn Needham and Terry Brown putting the trolley to use.

HARPENDEN BRANCH have run a bookstall for over 40 years. They were delighted when local publican Tim Needham offered to meet the cost of a substantial hand-trolley which the branch needed for moving books. Tim is no stranger to Toc H, and his pub, The Oak Tree, has been a staging post for books to and from the stall.

Branch Chairman Terry Gray reports that the matter did not end there, for it emerged in conversation that Tim's wife Carolyn was a great-niece of Rita Coulson ('Couly'). Couly was Tubby's secretary on Tower Hill for many years. As Terry said: 'The long arm of coincidence that has reached from those early days of Toc H was something we never expected. Maybe some things are meant to happen.' By further coincidence, a tribute to Couly appears on page 7 of this issue.

The first outing for the trolley was in April when the branch raised £235 at a special sale for the Kosovo Refugee Appeal.

IN BRIEF • IN BRIEF

STOCKPORT BRANCH recently took a group of residents from a local home - very much friends of the branch - on a coach outing to Stapeley Water Gardens near Nantwich. All enjoyed seeing exotic flowers, fountains, cascades and tropical lily ponds. There was also a multitude of colourful birds, thumbnail-sized golden frogs and many more in the Zoo room. The weather was perfect and a good time was had by all - thoroughly recommended.

The Local History Society in CREDITON, in Devon, staged a nostalgic look at the last 100 years in the region.

CREDITON BRANCH played its part, with a display of memorabilia illustrating Toc H's contribution to the community since 1937 - as well as modern literature. Many visitors asked questions, ranging from, 'What

does the Women's Lamp signify?' to 'What is left for Toc H to do now we have Social Services?'. One lady went off muttering 'Well, well, I always thought it was a secret society like the Ku Klux Klan'.

WEYMOUTH BRANCH recently took a day trip to Birmingham. This was at the invitation of Kings Norton and Northfield Branch, to renew friendships made when they went to Weymouth last year. Barbara Crocker reports that after a splendid lunch provided by the hosts, the visitors enjoyed a guided tour of many places of interest, made more interesting by the local members' detailed knowledge of the city. After a welcome tea, they set off home with reluctant goodbyes to new friends, and thanks for the wonderful welcome. A real day of Toc H fellowship.



Broxbourne MP Marion Roe (right) joins in the fun at the annual Toc H Jimmy Savile 'Danceathon'. This takes place every year at Cuffley, Herts, where local members combine with a weekend project group to run a 'rave-up' for people with learning difficulties. Project leader Nikki Bair is on the left.

Photo: In-Press Photography, for Herts and Essex newspapers.

The Ingleborough Trek

Now the event has taken place, I'm writing to say a big thank-you to our sponsors. The weather was kind (most of the time) and the spirits high as we started the walk bright and early on Saturday morning, June 12. Our 'team' of seven walkers, including myself and my nine-year-old daughter, Eve, made good progress throughout, even up the steep inclines on Ingleborough Fell itself. By 4.30pm we had completed the gruelling 20 miles - 8½ hours after starting, and with a huge sense of achievement. The penalty? For me, just three blisters and some aching limbs for a couple of days!

It's too early to tell what the final total of sponsorship is going to be. I'll report this, along with (hopefully) a photograph in Point 3 in due course. For now, though, thanks once again for your support and good wishes.

John Dunwell
31 Otterbeck Way, Aiskew,
Bedale, N. Yorks. DL8 1XL

And thanks for the Teddies

You will no doubt have heard about our 'teddy' project, which is going so well. To date I have distributed 2,026 teddies to various hospitals and now have another 120 ready to go. I have been thrilled to receive so many from Toc H members in the UK and I have written to them. But I hope they will understand that I am unable to write every time I receive a parcel, as the postage is now out of this world. I have received from Wolverhampton, Shropshire, West Midlands, Birmingham, Cheadle, Cheshire, Milton Keynes, Kidderminster and Wakefield, which is really terrific and so much appreciated.

The children who have received the teddies are delighted with them. Some parents have refused, thinking they have to buy them, and cannot believe it when I say they are free, a gift to the child from Toc H.

Pat Roberts
6, 86th Avenue, Mabelreign,
Harare, Zimbabwe

Eating for Bangladesh

I was very pleased to read the letter from Mr Kabir Ahmed, with its tribute to Mike Lyddiard from the Khasdobir Youth Action Group in Sylhet, Bangladesh. The June issue of Point 3 arrived the morning after another successful fundraising meal in Loughborough for the Friends of Khasdobir. Almost 100 supporters dined at the Root of Asia restaurant. The event was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Loughborough and also by a number of former Toc H staff members - Peter East (who was over from Spain and looking very well), Sue Cumming, Ray Fabes, David Ruddy and...

...Joyce Green
Leicester

The World Chain of Light

I am grateful to those (just six of you) who responded to the proposal, on the back page of Point 3 in June, that the World Chain of Light should, in 2000, be replaced by a Toc H International Day, on the nearest Sunday, December 10. You expressed a clear reluctance to move from the traditional dates and most of you felt there were practical difficulties about meeting on a Sunday.

The year 2000 is the 75th anniversary of Toc H Australia and they will be marking the occasion with a large weekend gathering on December 9 and 10. This will include a Youth Forum with some 50 participants and a service on the Sunday morning attended by many people outside Toc H. It will thus make every sense for them to celebrate the Chain on the Sunday, a day early, when they are all together, and I have agreed with Toc H Australia chairman, Ray Geise, that they should do so. We also agreed that Toc H branches elsewhere in the world would continue to observe the traditional dates (unless a specific branch chooses to meet on December 10 instead, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Australia).

Clearly, for many branches in the UK there is real difficulty about meeting at 9pm on a December evening and there seems no reason why you shouldn't meet earlier in the day if that is more

convenient. Both Ray and I believe that it is very important that we continue to observe this opportunity to remember our fellowship with Toc H members around the world. The exact date and time are rather less important.

Ken Prideaux-Brune
Amersham

The Eternal Realities

For me these realities include four convictions:

1. This world is part of a Creation whose origin lies elsewhere.
2. There is a Creator who is personal and loving, caring for each of us.
3. Those who pass on from this earthly body in what we call death continue to have being and new life.
4. Some persons apprehend these realities through personal prayer and in other ways. Jesus is the living Way in whom Christians know that all this is true..

We might remember the saint who was walking along the seashore reflecting on these mysteries that seemed to lie beyond his mind's grasp. He saw on a beach a child emptying seawater from a shell into a hole in the sand. 'What are you doing?' 'Emptying the ocean into the hole.' How impossible; yet no more so than grasping the whole knowledge of the eternal in a fallible mind!

Douglas Bridge-Collyns
Padre. Orston Branch

Lamps for Australia

In conversation with David Hall, secretary of Toc H in Australia, he mentioned to me how short they were of Toc H Lamps. So I took it unto myself to say that, when we got back home, I would endeavour to get some together and send them out to him. I knew they had many spare Lamps at Wendover and I got six and sent them off by sea. I was able to do this with financial help from Wendover towards the cost of sending them. I would like to express my thanks to Angela Gregory and everyone else at Wendover for their help.

Phil Watling
Goffs Oak & Potters Bar

OBITUARIES

In April
George Herbert
'Molly' Seymour

SE Region
Woking

In May
Alan Bates
Raymond Bonny
Jack Booth
Phyllis Cottle
Leonard Lindon
Harry Mackellow
Margaret Renwick
James Sargent

South Devon
High Brooms
SE Region
Somerton
Hayes
High Brooms
Alston
SE Region

Michael Whitehorn Cambridge
Rochford Whitehurst London District

In June

Maurice Cook Cirencester
Marguerite Coulson Lincolnshire
Joan Griffiths Cheadle Hulme
Edwina Jones Somerton
'Jack' Millar Tayforth
Alun Morgan Cirencester
Alma Tudor Huddersfield
Irene Vickers Newcastle (Staffs)

In July

John Chew Bedford
Edna Dawson Bournemouth & Christchurch
Margaret Nickson Southport

Not previously recorded

Mabel Bagdaley Orston
Phyllis Bowyer Gorleston
Arthur Edwards SE Region
Eric Ganner Alvechurch
Louis Leroy Popering
Roland Pepper Gloucester

TRIBUTES

We were all deeply saddened by the death, in May, of **MABEL HOLDER** a dedicated member of Codsall Ladies Branch since 1951. She will be greatly missed by her friends. **AW**

IRENE VICKERS who died in January, had been a stalwart and indefatigable member of Toc H Newcastle (Staffs) and Winstanton Branches. She also ardently supported Newcastle's LEPRO Branch and was most generous to both organisations. We give thanks for her life, her achievements, her ambitions and her very precious friendship. **JB**

JOAN GRIFFITHS who died in June, was a member for over 30 years. She was Treasurer of Cheadle Hulme Women's Branch for most of that time, and also served as Pilot. Projects close to her heart included the Schools under the Skies in Khasdobir, Bangladesh, and she recently knitted many 'teddies' which were sent to children in Zimbabwe. Her value to Toc H was immeasurable. **MS**

ALAN BATES, who died in May, joined Toc H in 1942. After being a member of Central and Services Branch, and then in Woking and Chertsey, he moved to Devon in 1969 and linked up with Newton Abbot Branch, serving as Treasurer and later as Chairman. Whilst having his own views on a variety of matters, which he would express with conviction, he was always ready to hear what others thought. We have lost a much liked and respected member. **NAP**

Gorleston Joint Branch has been saddened by the sudden death of **PHYLLIS BOWYER** (widow of 'Cabby'). She will be remembered not only as a loyal member for over 50 years but also as a faithful and much loved friend. We thank God for her life. **BB**

MARGARET RENWICK, of Alston Branch, died in May. Until last year she had been Chairman and Secretary for some 30 years. She will be sadly missed. **EJ**

PHYLLIS COTTLE of Somerton Branch, who died in May, had been a faithful member, loved by all. She was a good treasurer, and also did much good work with aged and disabled people, at lunch clubs and elsewhere. She will be sadly missed. **EJ**

HARRY MACKELLOW who died in May, was a member of High Brooms Branch but left it to help found, and become first chairman of, Tunbridge Wells Branch. On its closure he returned to High Brooms and was secretary at the time of his death. He was also active with Age Concern, and will be much missed. **RC**

...and **RAYMOND BONNY**, also of High Brooms Branch, who died in May had been very active in the community and will also be very much missed. **RC**

THE REV. MICHAEL WHITEHORN, chairman of Cambridge Branch, died in May. He was ordained into the Presbyterian Church (later the United Reformed Church) and served in various parts of the country before a final 21 years in Sevenoaks. He retired early for health reasons and moved to Cambridge where, as well as being much involved with the URC and other associations, he worked steadfastly and creatively to maintain the Toc H branch. He will be greatly missed by many friends in Cambridge and elsewhere in the country. **AE**

MARGARET (MADGE) NICKSON, who died in July aged 90, was a member for many years in Southport Branch. Until poor health prevented her, she was very active, always participating in activities and getting involved in any jobs the branch undertook. A very practical asset to the branch, she will be greatly missed. **SR**

ARTHUR MARKS, who died in April, was in at the start of Burraton Branch and was treasurer for many years, as well as booking steward of the Toc H room. He was an enthusiastic and active member of the branch and also of his local Methodist Church. He was an inveterate archivist and the branch enjoyed nostalgic evenings with his scrapbooks of the town and its characters. A gentle, kindly man; he is greatly missed. **DJE**

JACK BOOTH, who died in May, was best known when Toc H in Sussex was in its heyday. He was Area Treasurer. He would wear a large hat saying 'I am the H.A.T.' and when people asked what it meant, he told them and then wangled cash out of them. Jack also did much work in Crawley with the projects centred on Clayton House, and served on the boards of Clayton House (Toc H) Ltd and Outreach 3 Way. **AH**

MOLLY SEYMOUR, who died in April, joined Toc H at the age of 18 and was an active member in Woking for over 70 years. She served two terms as Central Councillor and, with her husband, served as Warden at Talbot House. Molly wore her Toc H badge with pride, it being the original of 70 years ago. She lived a life dedicated to Toc H and will be sadly missed. **EMG**

Members of Orston Branch were saddened by the death in May of **GEORGE GREEN**, founder member of Bingham Branch and then a member

at Orston. He was mayor of Bingham seven times and later mayor of Rushcliffe. He was a Freeman of the Borough, Sunday school teacher, youth leader, Methodist lay reader, and chairman of numerous charities. It was a pleasure to have known him, and he will be sadly missed. **HW**

Cirencester Branch was sad to lose **MAURICE COOK**, who died in April. As a grocer, he was an automatic choice to be catering officer for all branch meetings and social occasions, but he also served as secretary for many years, and district representative - and latterly had been Log Keeper. He was a loyal and faithful servant to the Movement. **PT**

ERIC GANNER, a member of Alvechurch Branch for many years, died in April. He was a stalwart member and, despite recent years of ill health, was a great asset to the branch, and was Chairman at the time of his death. He will be sadly missed. **JH**

MARGUERITE J. COULSON ('COULY'), who died in June, was Tubby Clayton's private secretary for nearly 40 years. She first came to Tower Hill in 1926 and took dictation every evening, from around 8p.m. until midnight or later. She was a great friend to all who worked on, or visited, Tower Hill, and her prodigious memory seemed to be undimmed to the last. She celebrated her 100th birthday in 1998. **KP-B**

We also give thanks for the life of **NEVILLE BONNER**, an outstanding member of Toc H Australia.

Neville, who died in February, had the unique distinction of being the first Aboriginal Senator in the Federal Parliament - as well as being a devoted Toc H member. At the beginning of his political career, Toc H members encouraged his aspirations, and gave him considerable support, and he was elected to the Federal Parliament in 1971. When he lost his seat in 1983, he was appointed to be head of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. He was awarded the Order of Australia the following year. Throughout he stayed in Toc H and became a Vice-President of Toc H Australia and Toc H Queensland. He often spoke to Toc H gatherings where his message was one of great encouragement underpinned by his own great humility and sincerity.

Neville was given a state funeral at which Toc H was represented.

NOTICE BOARD

STOP PRESS - 'NOT MONOPOLY'

The Toc H 'Not Monopoly Race' duly took place in London on 17th July. More about this, and details of the winning ticket holders, will be printed in October - but we can announce that the winning time was 3 hours, 46 minutes and 51 seconds, and was set by a team of Toc H volunteers recruited by Stephanie Roch of Sheffield.

The winners received a genuine Victorian flatiron as a trophy.



WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT 1999

The Scottish Region of Toc H invite you to join them to celebrate this, the last World Chain of Light Vigil this century and this millennium, to be held at: Loretto School Chapel, Musselburgh (near Edinburgh) on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th December. Inexpensive accommodation is available at the school.

and

INTERNATIONAL PEACE PROJECT

To be run in conjunction with World Chain of Light 1999 by Toc H in Scotland with Tubby's Poperinge Group, Belgium, in association with VDK Germany, Ypres School Belgium and YMCA Northern Ireland.

Saturday 11th to Tuesday 14th December at:
Loretto School, Musselburgh.

What does Peace mean to you?
What does the Millennium mean to you?
What does 2000 years of Jesus mean to you?

For more information on both these events, contact Suzanne Dunwell, Project Co-ordinator, 31 Otterbeck Way, Aiskew, Bedale, N.Yorks. DL8 1XL
Tel/fax: 01677 - 425152 Email: TOCHSD@aol.com

CENTRAL COUNCIL DEADLINES 1999

Central Council, Toc H's Annual General Meeting, takes place on November 6th and 7th this year. Please remember:

1. Any Central Councillor may nominate any member of Toc H to serve on the CEC. for a 3-year period. But, if you wish to do so, the closing date is 20th August.
2. Any Central Councillor may put a resolution to Central Council, but, if you wish to do so, you must submit it by 20th August.

MILEAGE CHARGES

A recent meeting of the CEC's Finance and Properties Committee discussed car mileage rates. It was agreed that, as from 1st June 1999, members who are entitled to recover costs for use of personal cars on authorised Toc H business may now claim 20p per mile.

TOC H WEEK 1999

Toc H Week this year is from 11th to 18th September. We hope that every branch will do something to mark the week - but those who cannot are asked to do something at another date...

...and what sort of something? Anything, really, to bring Toc H to a wider audience - and to tell the world that we are here and in business.

Central Services will be sending a pack to every branch shortly, with a load of ideas.

Some branches have already made their plans, such as Stockport which is organising a Garden Party and Buffet Tea at a local residential home on the 11th, and then taking a trip to Alison House on the 18th to coincide with its annual rededication service.

Many miles further South, Burraton Branch in Devon has chosen the 18th for its big 50th birthday bash... and so on.

What are YOU going to do?

CALLING ALL INTERNET USERS



Tony Cock, Secretary of the South East Region, wishes to create a Toc H E-mail directory. If you have an E-mail address, please mail it to him. He plans to create a directory of as many members as would like to be on it. He will send a copy of the directory to all who ask to be included. Contact Tony Cock on TONYCOCK@compuserve.com

CHRISTMAS AT LINDRIDGE

Will you be spending Christmas on your own this year?

Would you like to join Trudie Charles and Daphne Dawes at Lindridge House, (at Kingsteignton in Devon) and share in traditional Christmas festivities?

Toc H Lindridge has been booked from 24th to 26th December, inclusive.

For more details, write to Daphne Dawes, 338 Bath Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1TQ
Tel: 01225 873022